



TOWN OF KILL DEVIL HILLS

Land Where Flight Began

MEMORANDUM

April 24, 2024

TO: Mayor and Board of Commissioners
FROM: John Windley
REF: Mayor's Agenda

1. Proclamations and Resolutions (Attached MA-1A and MA-1B)

A. Resolution Opposing the Release of Helium Balloons

The Town of Kill Devil Hills boasts of a pristine coastline and a beautiful environment that has attracted visitors for decades. Our often fragile environment is negatively impacted by litter, debris, and threats to our wildlife, which include improperly disposed of helium and lighter-than-air balloons. Balloons that have traveled up to a thousand miles have washed up on our shores, clogged our waterways, and killed and maimed our wildlife.

With this resolution, the Town encourages the education of the public to promote the proper disposal of all balloons and to consider possible alternatives. Whether a resident preparing for a birthday party, a business looking to attract attention to its signage, or a regular OBX vacationer three states away releasing a balloon, Kill Devil Hills encourages everyone to consider the environmental impact of their decisions.

B. Proclamation Declaring Peace Officers Memorial Day May 15, 2024, and Police Week May 12 – 18, 2024

This proclamation highlights the importance of our first responders and the critical role that our law enforcement plays in maintaining our communities while also protecting the rights and interests of all of our citizens and visitors, keeping the Town of Kill Devil Hills a safe place to work, visit, and live.

I recommend approval of these items and a motion(s) would be in order for their adoption.



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Resolution Opposing the Release of Helium Balloons

WHEREAS, the release of helium and lighter-than-air balloons can pose a significant environmental threat upon deflation if not disposed of properly, and

WHEREAS, latex balloons can remain inflated for approximately 12 hours, with a potential of traveling 180 miles in a 15 mph wind, and foil balloons may stay inflated for two weeks, with a range of 1,000 miles; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup event recorded over 104,000 deflated balloons found and collected, with almost half being in the United States; and

WHEREAS, whole, deflated foil and latex balloons or pieces of deflated balloons not only contribute to pollution and litter problems, but also can endanger marine life; and

WHEREAS, research suggests that marine and land-dwelling animals often mistake balloons for edible resources, leading to entanglement, choking, and intestinal blockages; and

WHEREAS, partially and fully deflated balloons often arrive in Kill Devil Hills and along the Outer Banks from others areas, carried by the wind and sea currents; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Kill Devil Hills fully supports the scientific community, with its responsible release and tracking of balloons for the collection of meteorological and other scientific data; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Kill Devil Hills promotes the free expression of ideas, traditions, and community, while also encouraging everyone respect the environment; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners for the Town of Kill Devil Hills expresses its strong opposition to the release of helium and lighter-than-air balloons; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners encourages alternatives to the use of such balloons and directs Town Staff to support the education of residents, businesses, property owners, and visitors to alleviate the threat to wildlife and also promote the pristine natural environment on the Outer Banks.

This 24th day of April, 2024.

SEAL

John Windley
Mayor

ATTEST:

James Michael O'Dell
Town Clerk



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Proclamation Declaring Peace Officers Memorial Day May 15, 2024, and Police Week May 12 – 18, 2024

WHEREAS, the Congress and President of the United States have designated May 15 as *Peace Officers Memorial Day*, and the week in which it falls as *Police Week*; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Kill Devil Hills Police Department play an essential role in safeguarding the rights and freedoms of the citizens of Kill Devil Hills; and

WHEREAS, it is important that all citizens know and understand the challenges, duties, and responsibilities of their police department, and that members of our police department recognize their duty to serve the people through vigilant service, resulting in the protection of the general public and safeguarding of life, liberty, and property; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department of Kill Devil Hills has grown to be a modern and scientific law enforcement agency which unceasingly provides a vital public service;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Kill Devil Hills, does hereby proclaim the week of May 12-18, 2024, as

Police Week

and May 15, 2024, as

Peace Officers Memorial Day

and calls upon the public to observe *Police Week* with appropriate ceremonies in which everyone may join in commemorating police officers, past and present, who by their faithful and loyal devotion to their responsibilities have rendered a dedicated service to their communities and, in doing so, have established for themselves an enviable and enduring reputation for preserving the rights and security of all citizens.

The Board of Commissioners further calls upon all citizens of Kill Devil Hills to observe Wednesday, May 15, 2024, as *Peace Officers Memorial Day* in honor of those peace officers who, through their courageous deeds, have lost their lives or have become disabled in the performance of duty.

This 24th day of April, 2024.

SEAL

John Windley
Mayor

ATTEST:

James Michael O'Dell
Town Clerk